WaveLab 7.1, WaveLab Elements 7.1, WaveLab LE 7.1 – features and improvements

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
New Range indicator in the Audio Editor The range of the main waveform view is now displayed in the time ruler of the overview. It is possible to click and drag in order to change this range: click on the frame edge or in the middle to resize or move the range, which results in a comfortable scrolling or zooming procedure. If you press Control while clicking in the time ruler range indicator, this function is disabled and you are able to access the other functions such as zoom, drag and marker editing. In the Audio File preferences, there is also an option to have the range indicator cover the waveform view (Off by default). If the option is activated, the range remains editable only via the time ruler.	All Versions	Audio Editing
Middle button click in wave area (Audio File workspace) As in a Montage view, clicking on the mouse "middle" button allows you to scroll the waveform (as done when dragging the upper part of the ruler).	All Versions	Audio Editing
Hint for "Operation done" When an audio file is edited, rendered or saved, a text hint is displayed during a few seconds in the status bar, e.g. "Normalize was performed in 10 s".	All Versions	Audio Editing
Document tab names colors • Audio File Workspace: when a file (such as mp3) is opened, its associated tab will display its name in blue, to hint that WaveLab is using a decoded version of the file. • All workspaces: the names of files that are "untitled" and are not yet already saved are displayed in purple colour.	All Versions	Audio Editing
Enhanced Time Stretch dialog Enhanced Time Stretch dialog.	WaveLab 7 & WaveLab Elements 7 only	Audio Editing
DIRAC 3 New DIRAC Time stretch version. Benefits: • time stretch up to 400% with a new mode called "Transcribe mode", which uses an algorithm to time stretch and pitch shift music without losing information critical to transcription, such as attack transients. • Improved processing speed, up to more than 200% (varies with stretch modes and Windows/Mac).	WaveLab 7 only	Audio Editing
New Audio Montage: missing file handler Completely new approach when opening an Audio Montage with missing Audio Files. A specific dialog with file remapping features is now included.	All Versions	Audio Montage

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Audio Montage / Clip length display If no audio range is selected, the Time Field in the status bar displays the length of the focused clip (if any). Else, the length of the Audio Montage (as in previous version).	All Versions	Audio Montage
Plug-in resource management When rendering a montage, the current active plug-ins in the montage are switched off (and playback is stopped) to release resources before allocating plug-ins for the rendering process. Certain hardware-based plug-ins benefit from this procedure, as they can't allocate too many plug-in instances. This only happens if the option "Reset plug-in before rendering" is active, which is the default and recommended option. The plug-ins will be reactivated when playback is restarted.	All Versions	Audio Montage
Convert Audio File to Audio Montage, new option An option "split at Generic region markers" has been added.	All Versions	Audio Montage
Region creation dialog To improve productivity when creating marked regions, a function "Create/Name region from selection" has been added. There is a shortcut "Ctrl/Cmd + R" for it. From the dialog, you can edit the region name and type. The type is persistent from call to call. For WaveLab, this function is also available in the Audio Montage, which can be useful to create CD tracks quickly. Note: this shortcut was used for something else in previous version; we have preferred to reassign it to this function for coherence (with the "R" shortcut) and because it should often be called.	All Versions	Audio Montage
History menu has been added to file name edit fields	All Versions	Audio Montage
Dragging a marked region from the file browser to the Montage When Dragging a marked region from the file browser to the Montage, the name of the region is now used for the clip.	All Versions	Audio Montage
More detailed Track Level adjustment A more detailed level adjustment for track level is possible using the mouse while pressing the Alternate key (above a track slider).	All Versions	Audio Montage
File browser displays also an audio region panel The file browser now displays also an audio region panel, if possible with regards to the context (audio file + montage).	WaveLab Elements 7 & WaveLab LE 7 only	Audio Montage
Convert Audio File to Audio Montage When this function is activated a new dialog allows you to customize the creation of the Audio Montage. This feature is inherited from WaveLab 7.	WaveLab Elements 7 & WaveLab LE 7 only	Audio Montage
Three Audio Montage tracks in WaveLab Elements 7 It is now possible to create up to three audio tracks.	WaveLab Elements 7 only	Audio Montage

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Ducker plug-in in WaveLab Elements 7 The Ducker plug-in is now available in WaveLab Elements 7, which allows modulating the level of a clip according to the level of the track below.	WaveLab Elements 7 only	Audio Montage
DDP Import Enhanced compatibility to import DDP file sets (DDP files coming from other software).	WaveLab 7 only	Audio Montage
CD report enhancements The header can be customized. The generated file name can be specified.	WaveLab 7 only	Audio Montage
Erase selected time range This function has been added in the Edit menu of the Audio Montage workspace. The same function was available in WaveLab 6. The key shortcut had to be changed.	WaveLab 7 only	Audio Montage
MD5 generation for DDP files In the global preferences, it is now possible to activate the option "Write checksum file (MD5)". This will cause WaveLab to write a MD5 file next to the DDP files. This kind of checksum is stronger than CRC-32 (hence it is often preferred).	WaveLab 7 only	CD burning
Recent file lists enhancement After a file is saved it will appear in the list of recent files, unless it is still open in WaveLab. Such files will have a small "save icon overlay" to identify them in menus. For instance, if you save a file in mp3 format, the mp3 file will appear in the recent file list, with an alternative icon. Once opened and closed, the "save icon overlay" will not be associated to the file anymore. This feature allows easily identifying and opening of files that were recently exported from WaveLab. Files saved in a batch are not concerned.	All Versions	CD grabbing
Template enhancements 1. Audio File Workspace now has templates. Creating an empty file from a template means creating a file with some given audio properties (sample rate, bit resolution, channels), but also to optionally associate it with an output audio file format. When the "Save as" or "Render" dialog is open, the associated audio file format will always be proposed as default. Note: when a file is saved and later reopened these template settings are no longer active. 2. Audio Montage: it is now optionally possible to include markers, clips, track effects. It is also possible to associate an output audio file format. When the "Render" dialog is open, the associated audio file format will always be shown as default. From the dialog "Create document from Template" it is now possible to define a default template. The command "New" will directly create a document, which is based on the template. In that case, to give access to the template list, a new command has been added to each workspace: "File > "New from...". This allows you to create a document from any template.	WaveLab 7 & WaveLab Elements 7	General Feature

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Custom Text Variables From the Options menu it is possible to edit text variables. Text variables can be used in Meta-data text fields, as well as in the CD-Report header. Their value is replaced before rendering the files. For instance, you could have a variable called "%Engineer%" which will be replaced when rendering with e.g. a name such as "John Smith". Additionally, there is a "Text Snippet" editable list. The text snippets that you create in this list can be accessed from certain text fields, such as File Names and Meta-Data fields. This is just a facility to avoid typing recurrent text in your workflow.	WaveLab 7 only	General Feature
Master Section panel's folding state The Master Section panel's folding state is now stored/restored in layouts.	All Versions	Master Section
More visible Master Section Bypass icon The important icon that symbolizes "Bypass Master Section for the active document" has been made more accessable.	All Versions	Master Section
New "Bypass Original" switch This option is only available from the Master Section plug-ins for VST plug-ins and from the plug-in command bar. When you open a plug-in you can see a new popup menu that enables two choices: • Bypass Effect: the standard bypass, to play the unprocessed signal • Bypass original: this causes the difference (process signal minus original signal) to be played This new mode is especially useful for plug-ins such as Declickers, as it allows monitoring only the removed clicks. This is also useful to monitor what an EQ really does to the sound. Please note that certain (rare) plug-ins cause a phase shift in the processed signal. In that case, subtracting the original signal will not cancel it (or only partially).	WaveLab 7 only	Master Section
Spectroscope range can be changed The display range can be set to three predefined settings. This is independent for the Floating meter and the Record meter.	WaveLab 7 & WaveLab Elements 7	Meters

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area

Enhanced Plug-in windows
 	
• Plug-in windows now have a different title bar color according to their origin:
  • Master Section Pre-Master (Blue)
  • Master Section Post-Master (Purple)
  • Montage Clip (Red)
  • Montage Track (Green)
 	
This hint can be useful in case several plug-ins are opened at the same time. The colors have been symbolically chosen to map to the audio signal direction as the light spectrum (red to purple...)
 	
• The Plug-in menu is now accessable from the Title bar. This allows replacing the plug-in without accessing the Master Section or Plug-in Tool window.
 	
• A fold-in/out button on the title bar has been added (double-clicking on the title bar does the same). If pressing Control while clicking on the Close button, the plug-in is removed from its slot (else the window is just hidden, as before).
 	
• Plug-ins, which are opened from within the Batch processor (blocking dialog), keep their standard title bar and behavior.
 	
For consistency, a few colors have been updated in the user interface to match the plug-in title bar colors. This plug-in enhancement can be switched on/off in the Main Preferences Display tab.
	All Versions	Plug-in

Improved generic plug-in windows Some parameters with discrete values are now visible in a check box or a combo box, such as the Crystal Resampler. Moreover, Control + Click reset a slider to its default value (but for VST-2 plug-ins).	All Versions	Plug-in
New "Stereo Tools" VST-3 plug-in. New "Stereo Tools" VST-3 plug-in. This tool allows Left-Right to Mid/Side conversion, and the inverse. Channels can be swapped, and the phase can be inverted for each channel. Processing happens in the same order as the parameter presentation (phase, swap, convert, gain). 2 simplified version of the plug-in are provided: • LR to M/S • M/S to LR Both plug-ins don't have a user interface and parameters. They only do the task indicated by their name.	WaveLab 7	Plug-in
Same naming behaviour now for "render" as for "save as" When selecting a file from the Render dialog, the standard file selector box is now in "Save mode", which allows inputting any name from that box.	All Versions	Rendering & Import
Render specific region The Render dialog (Audio file and montage) has an additional option: "Render specific region".	All Versions	Rendering & Import

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Enhanced Meta-Data management In the Audio File Format Dialog, concerning Meta-Data (eg. MP3 ID3 tags or BWF info) it is now possible to set: • "Don't save anything" • "Inherit from source file" • "Specific to this configuration" (and edit the Meta-Data)	All Versions	Rendering & Import
Set as region name In the Render dialogs, the menu entry "Set as region name" has been added to the new menu.	All Versions	Rendering & Import
FLAC Lossless Audio Codec support (read and write, and metadata) Note: under Windows, FLAC does not support unicode file names.	WaveLab 7 & WaveLab Elements 7 only	Rendering & Import
Hint when saving an audio file in the background When an Audio File is being saved in the background a progress bar is now displayed at the bottom of the window, as when rendering.	WaveLab 7 only	Rendering & Import
Drag and drop or Copy and Paste from MediaBay/Cubase/Nuendo to WaveLab From the MediaBay, only audio files available on your media can be copied (ie. not VST sounds). Events can be dragged and drop into WaveLab or Copy/Paste can be used (in this last method an active Cubase forces the waveform to be copied tills its end; this is why Drag/drop is recommended). It is also possible to drag files from WaveLab into Cubase/Nuendo (drag the file tab). Audio Ranges cannot be exported that way so far.	All Versions	Steinberg integration
Window splitters • Slightly easier identification of window splitters (eg. move the mouse over a splitter). • Double clicking on a splitter, collapse or uncollapse the panels (not for splitters between Tool Windows).	All Versions	User Interface

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area

Tool Windows enhancements
 	
1. Specific and Shared Tool windows now have a small visual distinction.
    • Specific tool windows have a title bar with a lighter color and their title is in black. Moreover, when they float, the same title bar is kept to recall their connection to the workspace. Moreover they have a Dock/Float priority button.
    • Shared tool windows have a title bar with a darker color and their title is in black. When they float, they have a standard operating system title bar, in order to recall they are independent from any workspace.
 	
2. There is now a title bar folding button for docked tool windows, located just before the bar title. A folded bar gives slightly more space for the more useful contents area. A very thin bar remains visible.
    • There is also the option to fold/unfold the title bar automatically (off by default). The option can be toggled in Options > Global preferences > Display. When this option is activated, simply move the mouse cursor over the thin bar. When this option is activated, the "manual" fold button is not visible. By design, empty shared tool windows are not concerned by the Auto fold feature.
 	
3. Dock/Float priority button: if you want to move a floating Tool window anywhere, without docking it, this button need to be checked. The same behavior can be achieved by pressing Control before dragging the window.
    • When a specific Tool Window floats and is resized, this size will be remembered with the Workspace layout. This means next time you make it float, you will find it at the same place. One interest of this: you could have a small docked window, and a large floating window. When you need to do more work on the window, make it float temporarily, to be more comfortable.
    • The icon associated to each Tool window, is now visible in the menus that toggle the Tool Window visibility.
    • A shortcut can now be assigned to toggle the visibility of each Tool window (specific and shared). Moreover, a command bar can now be setup to display a switch to each Specific Tool Window. These options are set from menu Options > Customize commands > Workspace menu. This allows some new kind of workflow, especially for small screens: all specific tool windows can be closed by default, to save space. And with a shortcut or a single button click, the desired specific tool window can popup.
 	
4. Each docked shared tool window, if empty, now has a specif large button to recall the contents, rather than a small blue button at the top right.
	All Versions	User Interface

Enhanced "Customize commands" dialog Enhanced "Customize commands" dialog. An intuitive search function allows to quickly locate the desired commands. Please note: the filtered results correspond to the target of all "Reset" and "Print" commands. Menus and Sub-menus are now displayed in bold, for better visibility.	All Versions	User Interface

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area

Switcher enhancements
 	
Each Switcher button now displays a small "LED" to give a hint about its associated window status. It's a simple but useful concept in practise:
 	
   • No hint: there is no instance of the workspace.
 	
   • Light green: the related workspace is fully active (all shortcuts are enabled)
 	
   • Dark green: the related workspace exists, but is not the front active workspace.
 	
   • Orange: the related workspace is the front workspace, but it is not the active window. Another non-blocking window is the active window. The workspace can be made active anytime. Most shortcuts won't be enabled, because the workspace is not active (on the Mac, more shortcuts are enabled in comparison to Windows, because of operating system differences). Clicking the button once makes the workspace active again.
 	
   • Light Red: the related workspace is the front workspace, but it is not the active window. Another blocking window is the active window or a blocking process is going on. The workspace will be made active again when the blocking window closes. The Switcher button is also greyed because clicking on it has no effect (but on the Mac, where clicking activates the application, if another application is active).
 	
   • Dark-Red: the related workspace is not the front workspace. Another blocking window is active. The workspace can be made active again only when the blocking window closes.
 	
   • Light Purple: the related workspace is the front workspace, but WaveLab is not the activate application. If WaveLab is activated, this workspace will be the active one, by default.
 	
   • Dark Purple: the related workspace is existing, but is not the front workspace, and WaveLab is not the activate application.
 	
When a blocking window is opened, the Switcher button is also greyed out. Clicking on it has no effect (but on the Mac, where this activates WaveLab if another application is active at that time).
 	
The Control Window button's behavior has slightly changed: if the Control Window is the active window, clicking on that button causes the window to close (as far as there is a remaining workspace).
 	
Shortcuts: If you click on a switcher button with "Shift" a new document is opened of the corresponding type (file selector box opens). "Control": a new document of the corresponding type is created. "Control + Shift": this opens the template dialog, to create a new document from a template (WaveLab 7 only).
	All Versions	User Interface

Mac: more popup menus displaying icons. Mac: more popup menus displaying icons.	All Versions	User Interface

Workspace document tabs
 	
Document activation improvement:
 	
   • When opening a new file, its Tab will now be created right after the active Tab and not systematically as last Tab.
   • When closing an active Tab, it is now activated on its right side. This is the default option, but can be changed according to a new preference in Options > Global preferences > Display.
   • In case multiple files are opened at the same time, the first one (left most side) is activated.
	All Versions	User Interface

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Tab busy indicator When an Audio File or Montage is rendered an animation is shown in its tab.	All Versions	User Interface
Time indicators All progress dialogs that show a progress bar now also display "Elapsed" and "Remaining" times. This is also the case for non-blocking progress bars at the bottom left of audio windows, e.g. during the rendering process.	All Versions	User Interface
Copy file name function in tab context menu When right-clicking on a tab, a new menu allows copying the file name or parts of it into the Clipboard. The same menu is present in Workspace menus: File > Special.	All Versions	User Interface
Easier identification of most tool windows Tools windows that are empty ("uniform while background") as well as lists and tables now display a large faded icon for better identification.	All Versions	User Interface
Easier identification of Status Bar text fields Easier identification of Status Bar text fields (Audio Files and Audio Montages).	All Versions	User Interface
"Save as" dialog enhancements • The "File Save As" dialogs now have the option "Automatically open system file selector". • When typing a file name, all existing files that start with the same letters within the active folder are displayed in a popup window. • A new button shows all files in the active folder. • For the "Save Audio File" dialog, certain feedback messages can appear, according to the active settings.	All Versions	User Interface
New Switcher bar inside workspace New Switcher bar inside workspace. This bar is optional but present by default. It works comparable to the floating switcher bar, but it does not hide anything. By default, the floating switcher bar is now only visible if WaveLab is not the active application (eg. to facilitate drag and drop). This behaviour can be changed within the global preferences. Size, position and visibility of the bar are saved with each workspace layout. The contents (buttons inside) are common to all workspace layouts (for a given workspace type).	All Versions	User Interface
Option: "Display file extension in tabs" If this option is activated, tabs will display file names with their extension. For instance, "Piano.mp3" will be displayed rather than "Piano". This takes a bit more space, but can be useful as the Audio File Workspace can edit files from various formats. This option is OFF by default and can be activated in the preferences of the Audio File workspace.	All Versions	User Interface
Option: "Display active file path in title bar" This option is activated by default and can be toggled in the Global preferences > Display tab.	All Versions	User Interface

Feature / Improvement	Version	Area
Save all dialog A column "Type" has been added to better identify the files to save.	All Versions	User Interface
Double clicking on a marker head • Set the cursor to this position: Starts playback from this position, if "Control/Command" is pressed. • Activate the Marker Tool Window if Alternate is pressed.	All Versions	User Interface
Control window / Hide Frame Status The Control Window now remembers the "hide frame" setting when saving/restoring a layout.	WaveLab 7 only	User Interface
Enhanced preset display in command bars When a preset is set to be included in a Command bar (from the "Customize commands" dialog): • If the preset is included in a sub-menu of the media, this folder will be displayed on the command bar (to group several presets under a single command bar button). • If the preset is included in a sub-menu (eg. Workspace Layout), and this sub-menu is set to be included in a command bar, then a single button will represent this sub-menu on the command bar (the interest is have a faster access to the sub-menu items). This feature was partially implemented in the previous version. • When a button, in a Command bar, represents a custom preset, its popup tip now displays the preset name in bold.	WaveLab 7 only	User Interface
External tools in command bar A custom external tool can now be included in a command bar.	WaveLab 7 only	User Interface
Background Task Window Background task window: A column "Elapsed time" has been added.	WaveLab 7 only	User Interface
Play a sound when a long task completes This is a new, customizable option in the main preferences. The file format needs to be .wav or .aiff.	WaveLab 7 only	User Interface

Steinberg Media Technologies, 2011